



¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the better and more peaceable  
gouernment of the middle Shires of Northumberland, Cumberland,  
and Westmerland.



Orasmuch as we doubt not, but the great blessing of Almighty God, hath  
beene long, and still is perceived, and acknowledged by all Our louing Subiects  
to this whole Iland, in the uniting in Our person the two famous, and ancient  
Kingdomes of England, and Scotland, and by that meanes in making those  
Shires, which were anciently the borders of the sayd Kingdomes, to be now the  
middle Shires of this our united Kingdome of Great Britaine; And Whereas our  
speciall care hath euer beene since Our happye acceso to this Kingdome, to haue  
the same reformed and quieted from slaughterers, spoiles, and rapines, and the  
malefactors there to be rooted out: Neuerthelesse we finde by experiance, that the  
disordered persons, accustomed in former timesto live by rapine and spoile, preying  
dayly vpon our good and louing Subiects, without feare of God or man, will not  
be reformed, nor their insolencies and outrages repressed, without some new supplie of authority to the ordi-  
nary ministracion of Justice in those parts. wee therefore bending Our cares to haue the slaughterers,  
spoiles, robberies, insolent outrages, and other enormities repressed by seuere, and condigne punishment,  
which were, and still are so frequent, and common vpon the sayd late Borders, and now middle Shires of  
this Our Kingdome of Great Britaine, as in a case of state for the voyding of many inconueniences, haue  
with the advice of Our Priveie Councell, for the speedy preuention, or seuere punishment heereafter of such  
fowle crimes, set downe certaine Articles heerein digested, which wee command all persons, whom it may  
concerne, of what degree soever, to beduly executed. And if any person shall bee found wilfully negligent,  
contemptuous, or disobedient, we declare hereby that such seuerity of punishment shalbe inflicted vpon him  
or them, as the example thereof shall terrifie others from committing such contemptuous offences. First,  
Whereas in the Parliament holden at Westminster the eleventh yeere of the Reigne of the late King of fa-  
mous memory Henry the seventh it was (amongst other things) ordained and enacted, That the Lordship  
and bounds of North and South Tindal, and all lands and Tenements within the same, and every part  
therof should stand, and be from thenceforth Gildable, and part of the shire of Northumberland, and no fran-  
chise ne enfranchised etc. Our will and pleasure is, that the sayd Statute and Ordinance bee from hence-  
forth, in all and every the branches thereof, duly obserued and put in execution.

Item, finding it necessary, that the like ordinance, course and proceeding be prescribed to be kept, holden, and observed in Hexhamshire, and within the parts of Riddesdale, and that part of Cumberland, which is called Bewcastle; Our will and pleasure is, and, of Our power and prerogative Royall, wee doe strictly charge and command, that they and every of them, and all lands and tenements within the same, in whose possession soever they be, and every part thereof, stand, and be from henceforth in the nature of Wilderly, and no Franchise, nor enfranchised; but that all maner of Writs shall runne, and all our Officers, Lieutenant or Lieutenants, Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, Escheatours, Coroners, Bayliffes, and other Officers, and their deputies and every of them, of, or within the same, and every part of them; and all other warrants and precepts shall be obeyed and of full authority by reason of this Our Proclamation within the sayd severall places, and in every part thereof, touching and concerning onely all maner of slaynnes, felonies, rapines, and other misdemeanours, notwithstanding any pretence or claime of liberty, or franchise whatsoeuer.

Also, that no person or persons, of what estate, degree, or condition he or they be of, that now hath, or that hereafter shall haue authority or power in his or their owne right, or any other mans, to dimit or let to farme for yeere or yeeres, terme of life, or at will, any Lands or Tenements within any the severall places aforesayd, but that the Lessee or Lessees forthwith before he or they take or occupie by force of any such Lease any Lands and Tenements, finde good and sufficient Suretie, at the least two persons, having Lands and Tenements within some of the places aforesayd, to the full yeerely value of xxiiii shillings over and aboue all manner charges and reprises, by Recognizance to Us in Twentie pounds, before two Justices of peace within the severall places aforesaid respectively, upon this condition, That if the sayd Lessee or Lessees within eight dayes warning to them personally or openly at his or their owne house, or in his or their Parish Churches given by any of the sayd Justices of peace, the Sherrif, any of our Lieutenants of any of the sayd places respectively, or any other Our officers, personally appeare not before the same Justices of the peace, or other Our Commissioners, at any Session or Sessions, or Gaole delivery, at such place and day within the sayd severall places respectively, Wheresoever it shall fortune them to bee assigned, and as they, or any of them shalbe thereunto, as before is rehearsed, warned, there and then to answere all such felonies, Murders, Trespasses, & Misdemeanours, from henceforth by them, or any of them to be done; That then the sayd summe of Twentie pounds shalbe forfeited. And if any person or persons after the three and Twentieth day of January next comming, or at any time before, after notice of this Our Proclamation, take vpon hym or them, to let or dimit any Lands or Tenements within the places aforesaid respectively, where no such Sureties is before had and found as is before rehearsed; That every person or persons that so leteth or dimiteth, shall by vertue hereof for every Lease or Demise he so shall make of any Land, Messuage, Mansion, or dwelling house, within the severall places aforesaid respectively by him, or them so let or dimit, suffer Imprisonment, and such further paines and punishment as we shall thinke fit to be inflicted on him. And if any person or persons of what estate, degree, or condition he or they be of, take vpon him or them after the three and Twentieth day of January next comming, or at any time before, after notice of this Our Proclamation, to enter, dwell, occupie, hold, or inhabite any Lands, Tenements, or Ground within the severall places aforesayd, not being his owne Freehold or inheritance, without sufficient Suretie by him or them found, except he be a Lord Spirituall or Temporall of this Realme: That he or they so doing, haue Imprisonment by the space of one yeere, without Bayle or Mainprise, & so to continue vntill he haue found sufficient security to Us by Recognizance before the Justices of the Peace of the sayd severall places respectively, to be of good bearing against Us, our Heires or Successors, and all our liege people.

Item, that all persons within the sayd middle Shires, when hev and crie, or other pursute shall happen to be made after any felon or felons, or other misbehaued persons within the same, or any of them, shall and doe the vittermost of their power in pursuynge, taking, and apprehending the sayd felons and misbehaued persons, vpon paine of imprisonment, &c. and other penalties, as to vs shall seeme meet.

Item, That no notorious offenders, or any offenders for stealths of cattell or other things, be let to Bayle or Mainprise by any our Justice or Justices of the Peace, or other Our Ministers, but in open Court or Generall Sessions, vpon paine that the person so bayling be put out of the Commission of the Peace, and otherwise punished, as we shall direct.

Item, that the multitude & unnecessary number of Hostler houses & Maitlers be forthwith repressed according to the Law, and that for the future, the sayd Justices of the Peace bee carefull and circumspic in the Licences that they shall make for keeping of any such Hostler houses, or for making of Malt. And for their better information, doe acquaint the chiefe Lords in the same townes respectively, where such Hostler houses and Maitling shalbe, with such Licenses to be granted; And the same to be granted to none, but such as are well knownen to be of honest and good conuersation, they finding two sufficient Sureties to keepe

good order in their sayd houses, and not wittingly to lodge or entertaine any lewd or suspected persons, nor to suffer any Dicing, Carding, or excessive Drinking in their houses, but in moderate sorte, and at seasonable houts, and not other wise, vpon paine of imprisonment and other punishment to ensue thereupon.

Item, that all Justices of Peace and other Gentlemen of the sayd Countiees respectively, doe forbeare to maintaine or countenance any by Wearing of their Liveries, or any other Dependance, that haue beeene knownen malefactors in former times, or who are now suspected to be offenders, receitours, abettors, conceallours, or maintainours of any Fellow or Fellons, or other notorious leude and misbehanued Persons: the contrary course whereof, wee haue found to haue bred to much courage and heart, in such as will not conforme themselves to live in obedience to our Lawes, as they tender our displeasure, and vpon paine of being put out of the Commission of the Peace.

Item, that the wiues and Children of all such Persons as haue heeretofore either beeene banished, or haue become voluntary Fugitives into our Realme of Ireland, bee sent to their husbands, and none of them to returne vpon paine of imprisonment, and such other punishment, as wee shall thinke fitt to inflict vpon them.

Item, that all Fugitives and Outlawes take notice and warning, by this our Proclamation, that they are to render themselves to some Justices of Peace of the saide middle Shires, before the twenty third day of January next comming, at their perill. And for default thereof, that all receitours, and maintainers of any of them after that time incurred be committed to some of our Prisons there respectively, there to remaine and abide, without Bayle or Mainprise, vntill they produce the Principals, or that the said Principals bee otherwise apprehended.

Item, for the prevention of stealths of Cattell hereafter in those parts and places, That no Beefe or Sheepe be brought to be sold in any Faire or Market, by any Butcher or other person without the Hide, nor without the Skinne hanging on the Carkeise, vpon paine of Imprisonment, and forfeiture of the same so brought, to be bestowed on the poore of the place where such offence shalbe committed.

Item, that no person buy any Horse, Sheepe, or Cattell in any place, but in open Faire or Market, and there to enter the same first in the Toll booke kept for such Faire or Market, vpon paine to forfeit the Goods so bought, and to be imprisoned without Bayle or Mainprise, vntill he produce before some of Our Justices of the Peace, or other head Officer within the said places respectively, the partie that so solde the Goods vnto him.

Item, for the more speedy suppreſſing, and freeing the said Countiees and places of notorious and wicked offenders that will not be reformed, but by severity of punishment; wee haue taken order for the making out a Commission to ſpeciall Commissioners, to ſurvey, ſearch and finde out, and enforme Us of the moſt notorious and lewd persons, and of their faults, within the ſaid Countiees of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmerland, Riddesdale, and Bewcalle within the ſame: And we hereby ſignifie our pleasure to be vpon Certificate of the ſaid Commissioners, to ſend the moſt notorious fliners, and misbehanued persons of them that shall ſo be certified, into Virginia, or to ſome other remote parts to ſerve in the warres, or in Colonies, that they may no more infect the places where they abide within this our Realme.

Item, wheras it was hertoſore given in Charge amongſt other instructions, to Commissioners of the ſaid middle Shires, That they ſhould take care to forbide all persons within the bounds of their Commission, the uſe of Pistols, Peeces and Armors, except ſuch as ſhould ride or goe in our Service: And to all Inhabitants within Tyndall, Riddesdale, in Northumberland, Bewcalle, the North part of Gilſland Eſk, and Leuyn in Cumberland, Eaſt and West Tyuidall, Lyddesdale, Eusdale, and Annerdale in Scotland, of all maner of Weapons, and Armors; And of all horses, ſauing meane Nagges of fortie ſhillings ſterling price, or thereabouts, excepting Noblemen and Gentlemen of qualitie and good cariage, and their houſhold Servants, being of no broken claymes; And that ſuch as ſhall retaine Armes and Horses as aforesayd forbidden, one Moneth after publike notice hereby to them giuen, to bee imprisoned for the ſpace of one Moneth without Bayle or Mainprize; And that if they ſhall after their enlargement retaine ſtill in their poſſeſſion ſuch forbidden Armes and horses for the ſpace of one Moneth more, the person ſo offendin, to forfeit to Us the ſaid Armes and horses, and to bee committed to prison, till hee enter Recogntzance to Us in the ſumme of an hundred pound at the leaſt, before two Justices of peace there respectively, to put away ſuch Armes and horses as aforesayd. Our will and pleasure now is, and we doe hereby ſtraiſtly charge and command the ſayd Inſtructions and Direc tions herein recited, to be henceforth dueley obſerued, followed, and exerciſed.

Item, that the chiefe Lords of Lands and Liberties in the Countie's of Cumberland and Northumberland, shall take good Bonds in good summes of their landholders and vndertenants, that haue, or shall haue any estate in any houses, lands or tenements by admission, demise, or otherwise from their sayd Lords, to be answerable vpon any warrant to be sent from any Justice of Peace according to the tenor of the same warrant: In respect whereof, we further will and command, that the sayd Lords shall enter Recogntzance to vs in the like summes, before two Justices of the Peace of the same Countie's respectively, with condition that if such Tenant or Landholders flee or withdraw himselfe before his apprehension, or become outlawed, the partie grieved, prosecuting and enditing the partie so fled, or withdrawing himselfe, or outlawed for any felony or stealth by him committed, at the next quarter Sessions, and he not there appearing to be tried thereupon, the sayd Lords shall out of the lands, leases, and goods of the fugitive foorthwith satisfie the partie grieved for his goods stollen, according to the value thereof, as they shall be prayzed indifferently, or else shal give of their owne goods satisfaction to the party so grieved, vpon paine of forfeiture of their sayd Recogntzance.

Lastly, Whereas heretofore there haue beene Comissions by vs awarded to Commissioners of England and Scotland, for the remanding of offenders to the severall places where the offences were committed, which hath beene for a tyme discontinued, since which tyme offences in those parts haue more and more abounded, whereby there is a necessity of reviving the same till the sayd Countries bee brought to better order and more quiet: we therefore will and command, that such as commit felonies, or other heynous offences punishable by the Law in the kingdome of Scotland, and flee into England, shall be apprehended and remanded to the place where the fact was committed, there to receive their due punishment, and so reciprocally, that the like be done in Scotland for such as commit the like offences in England, & flee thither to escape punishment, For which purpose we haue directed our Commission to special Commissioners of both Nations provisionally, for the better execution and performance of this service.

Giuen at Our Pallace of Westminster, the three and twentieth day of December, in the fifteenth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland. Anno 1617.

God sauе the King.

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John Bill, Deputies and Assigne's of Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings most  
Excellent Maiestie. ANNO M.D.C.XVII.